

JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER

LIAISON OFFICE  
AMERICAN EMBASSY  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96346

FROM: JCRC-LNB  
TO: Commander, JCRC

REF: RPT #HK86-024  
16 April 1986

SUBJ: Alleged Recovery of U.S. Remains and I. D. Card  
In Gia Lai-Kontum

REF: A. HK86-023 (Report by same Source)  
B. HK86-025 (Report by same Source)

Source:

- a. SOURCE
- b.
- c.
- d. SOURCE DATA
- e.
- f.
- g.
- h. Map used: ND 48-8; Series 1501
- i. Date of interview: DATA
- j. Name of interviewer: Mr. G. E. Bell, GS-13 DOD
- k. Other: DATA

Source, a 29 YOA male VM refugee, provided information concerning his alleged observation of a U.S. identification card and a pack containing U.S. remains which were recovered by a PAVN soldier in Tan Canh (ZB0222) Gia Lai-Kontum.

Information:

Source stated that sometime during November 1983 while residing in Pleiku City, Gia Lai-Kontum Province, he saw a U.S. identification card in the possession of a PAVN soldier. Source stated that at the time he had gone to visit the brother-in-law of his aunt's brother-in-law. Source's aunt,

SOURCE DATA

(number not recalled) and worked as an artist but made additional income from dealing in scrap metal.

SOURCE DATA

Source went with NAME to the Cultural Center where they met NAME and the PAVN soldier who was a Pvt (NFI regarding identity) assigned to the Tan Canh area in Kontum. Source heard from NAME

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NAME that he had met the PAVN soldier when he had gone to Tan Canh and that he had heard from the PAVN that he had recovered one U.S. remains in the Tan Canh area. NAME had asked the PAVN soldier to bring the remains to Pleiku for him to see because he knew that both Source and NAME were interested in acquiring U.S. remains. Source stated that he had informed both NAMES concerning his interest in the remains and added that he had become interested after he heard about the U.S. Government's desire to locate remains on the BBC and VOA Vietnamese language broadcasts. Source stated that he had intended to buy the remains and then resell them at a profit.

The PAVN soldier showed Source a field pack and sandbag which he said contained the remains of one black U.S. serviceman, and said that he had dug the remains up from a grave in which they were buried near Tan Canh. Source was shown a laminated identification card (apparently a military I.D. card, based on Source's description) on which was affixed a photograph of a black male. Source recalled that the man in the photograph looked young and had short curly hair. Source was not able to recall further details concerning the photo. Source recalled that the I.D. card was slightly damaged near where the photo was affixed. The PAVN soldier told Source that he would sell the remains and I.D. card for two taels of gold. Source stated that he told the PAVN soldier that he would like to buy the remains and I.D. card and that he would contact him through NAME when he had the gold. Source was not able to acquire the necessary two taels of gold and did not recontact the PAVN soldier. Source assumed that the PAVN soldier took the remains and I.D. card back to Tan Canh. Source was not able to provide further information concerning the alleged U.S. remains.

ANALYST

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
RESOLUTION CENTER

ANALYSIS & STUDIES

**COMPLETED** REFUGEE REPORT & PRELIMINARY EVALUATION


SOURCE DATA: <sup>Source</sup>  
REFUGEE REPORT INTERVIEW NUMBER & DATE: HK86-024, 16 APR 86  
ANALYST: MSG D.W. Atherton  
CROSS REFERENCE(S): None.

CATEGORY DATA: Casualty Data/Second Hand Account

FINDINGS: Review of information provided by Source reveals no correlation to data in JCRC files.

CORRELATE DATA: None.

BACKGROUND/COMMENTS: Of the ten REFNO cases within 15 kilometers of grid coordinates ZB0222, three involved blacks and one involved an individual with a spanish surname. Of these four individuals, one DATA was allegedly buried in Laos and one (REFNO 1485) escaped and was rescued. The lack of detail provided by Source precludes correlation to any of these four cases, nevertheless, a copy of this report will be placed in the following files for future reference: DATA 1449; and DATA

  
JOE B. HARVEY  
LTC USA  
Commander

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY ANALYTICAL POSITION AND NOT A FINAL EVALUATION.  
THIS EVALUATION AND THE ATTACHED REFUGEE REPORT MAY BE RELEASED TO THE NOK

DISPOSITION: JCRC LIAISON OFFICE, BANGKOK JCRC REFNO FILE(S): 1737, 1449  
OASD/ISA, PW-MIA AFFAIRS 1833-0-04  
DIA/VO-PW